

WYCOMBE SWEEP ASIDE BROMLEY'S TEN MEN

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Bromley 2

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' hard-working inside-forward trio of Viv Busby, Les Merrick and Keith Samuels laid the foundations for this Isthmian League success over Bromley, who were forced to contest the last 42 minutes with only ten men.

On a bitterly cold afternoon these three all played vastly different roles, yet combined in their one objective to steer Wanderers to their seventh league point of 1968.

Keith Samuels, now nearing something like the devastating form he displayed last season, took on the mantle of chief-marksman in the absence of Horseman, and how well he rose to the occasion. Les Merrick was used as a battering-ram to prise open the Bromley rearguard in order to create gaps for his colleagues while Busby supplied the finesse from behind.

A neck injury to John Maskell allowed reserve keeper Colin Bunting to make his first senior appearance of the season. Although, an experienced campaigner, Bunting displayed some nerves in the opening minutes when he fumbled a pass-back from Faulkner for a corner. It was evident that the Wycombe defenders had yet to strike up an understanding with Bunting which was illustrated when, from the resulting corner, Baker cleared Agar's header out of Bunting's arms.

HIGH WORKRATE

Nevertheless, the high workrate of the three inside-forwards soon began to upset the Bromley defence. Busby continually sprayed long through balls for Merrick to chase while Samuels was always prominent in the air. After Samuels had gone close with two fine efforts Bromley broke from defence and scored in the 24th minute. Hutchins streaked past Eyres with a fine burst of speed, cut in towards goal and slipped the ball under the diving Bunting.

Six minutes later Wanderers were on level terms. A Worley corner was cleared to Baker who pushed a square pass across the box for Gale to try his luck with a low 20-yard drive. Staples could not hold the shot and Holmes, showing excellent anticipation, streaked forward and swept the ball in.

Wycombe very nearly went ahead with an unforgettable 20-yard volley by Samuels which simply scorched past the right-hand post with Staples stood rooted to his line.

However, it was Bromley who regained the initiative in the 39th minute. Hutchins flummoxed Eyres, who allowed the right-

winger a clear run and as Faulkner came across, Hutchins' centre beat the flying Bunting and substitute Warman, who had only just replaced Green, headed into an unguarded net.

Two minutes before the break, Wycombe were on an even keel once more. Busby started the build-up in mid-field with a long accurate pass to Merrick, who rounded Gaston, and centred for Samuels, having made yards of ground, to head home.

There was little doubt that Wycombe were in charge of the second period, which was not surprising, considering Bromley were reduced to ten men when substitute Warman limped off, victim of a heavy, but fair, tackle by Rundle.

Wanderers took the lead for the first time in the 60th minute with a gem of a goal. Baker and Worley combined neatly to put Samuels clear and his fierce drive was only parried by Staples. Busby, with his back to the goal, pivoted beautifully to fire the bouncing ball into the net.

Ten minutes later Wycombe made sure of the points when from a free-kick by Rundle, Busby nodded the ball into the path of Gale, who scored with a low shot into the right-hand corner.

Wycombe Wanderers: C. Bunting; I. Rundle, P. Eyres; B. Baker, V. Faulkner, C. Gale; L. Worley, V. Busby, L. Merrick, K. Samuels, S. Holmes.

Wycombe 4 Bromley 2

WYCOMBE WANDERERS hit back to take control in the second half of their Isthmian League game against Bromley—but not until the visitors had been reduced to 10 men.

Both sides spoiled energetic approach play by poor finishing, but a defensive mistake enabled Hutchins to put Bromley ahead after 25 minutes. Holmes quickly equalised, but again Bromley exploited a defensive lapse, this time through substitute Warman, who had come on for the injured Green.

Just before half time Samuels equalised for Wycombe.

Bromley were down to 10 men when Warman had to go off after a heavy tackle, and as Wycombe gradually took command, Busby and Gale put them ahead.